

Creating a Communications Center in Tianjin To Promote International Relations and Cooperation

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During the formulation of the Ninth Five-year Plan and the Long-term Objectives to the Year 2010, the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Administration of Tianjin resolved to implement a project to create the Tianjin Communications Center. The overall objectives of the project include the following:

- constructing an information network
- developing information resources and utilizing them widely
- promoting more applications of information technology
- developing information technology and the information industry
- training information specialists
- establishing and refining policies, regulations, and standards for the information industry.

By the year 2010, according to the present plan, Tianjin will become a major communications center for Northern China. It will then be a national information center, an important base for manufacturing domestic equipment and products, and an international city with advanced information facilities.

The development of the Tianjin Communications Center will take place in two stages. The first consists of five tasks that are to be carried out during the Ninth Five-year Plan: (1) the initiation of "The 2119 Project," (2) the construction of a model information community, (3) study and development of three key information technologies, (4) the development of four information industries, and (5) improvements in the information level of our entire society. The long-term objective, to be achieved by the year 2010, is basically to complete the construction of all the infrastructure necessary for a highly advanced information system.

The Tianjin Communications Center will be developed in exploratory and creative ways, so that it will help to boost and accelerate overall economic growth. The following are some of the outstanding achievements since work began the Communications Center, more than three years ago:

- Outstanding progress has been achieved in the key projects of the Communications Center, and the framework for a modern public communications network has taken shape.

- The four cities of Beijing, Dalian, Qingdao, and Tianjin have increased their mutual cooperation on the basis of common urban interests, to build an “information circle” ringing the shores of the Bohai Gulf.
- Strong momentum has been established for developing the information industry, and there have been increasingly noticeable results in terms of stimulating overall economic growth.
- A new and supportive atmosphere for creating a new information environment has been formed.

At the present time, the project for creating a new information environment in Tianjin is focusing on the following:

- speeding up the construction of key projects and completing the basic construction work for the entire Tianjin urban network
- implementing the project for electronic-based administration in the city, making great efforts to develop our information resources further, and providing Tianjin with connections to on-line information services
- pressing forward with a project for establishing electronic commerce, based on creative concepts
- pressing forward with a combination of information and industrialization, and further promoting the development of the information industry in our city.